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## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Leon County Office of Sustainability is to promote adoption of practices that improve our quality of life, protect our natural environment, and strengthen our economy, both within Leon County Government and within the community at large.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER

This issue of the *Growing Green* bi-annual newsletter highlights Leon County's continued sustainability efforts on behalf of our citizens. The collaborative partnerships between Leon County and community partners fosters a healthier, greener place that we are proud to call home. Read on to find out how you can get involved in shaping our community for generations to come.



Sincerely,

**Tessa Schreiner**

Recycling and Sustainability  
Manager



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# COUNTY HIGHLIGHT:

## Better Bag Challenge!

In an effort to reduce the use of plastic bags, Leon County Government challenges citizens to bring at least five used plastic bags to partnering businesses on Friday, November 20 between 5 and 7 p.m. to receive a free canvas tote bag.

- **Home Depot, 3200 Capital Circle NE**
- **Lowes, 2121 Capital Circle NE**
- **Winn Dixie, 110 Paul Russell Road**



This initiative strives to educate citizens on the positive aspects of using canvas bags as opposed to plastic bags. Over a lifetime, use of reusable bags by just one person would save 22,000 plastic bags.

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## Green Giving



It's the season for giving – which means more stuff. Although it's fun to give and receive, going without another knick knack wouldn't hurt. So why not consider sustainability when choosing the perfect holiday gift?

When it comes to presents, nothing beats the memorable gift of experience. Does a zip-lining tour at the Tallahassee Museum use a lot of material resources, or require a cross-continent shipment?

No, but it does include an enjoyable day outdoors with fresh air and a little exercise. Treat a loved one to an hour at the spa, buy a gift-card to a local restaurant or plan a camping trip with friends or family.

Giving services, such as offering to walk someone's dog for a weekend, is another sustainable gift. Not only do these require little to no use of natural resources (and little to no money at your expense), but they are thoughtful and kind. Create a small coupon book for a friend or significant other, offering things like a home-cooked meal or a night at the movies.

When all else fails, try choosing gifts made from recycled sources. Browse local shops and stores to find repurposed goods that need a new home.



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# COUNTY

## HIGHLIGHT: Let the Leaves Lay

Yard waste is not something that should be wasted. In fact, all those little twigs and leaves can help save you time and money while making your yard more nutritious. How, you ask? Here are some benefits of leaving yard debris in your yard instead of hauling it off:

- **Free fertilizer**

Grass clippings and other yard debris contain the same beneficial nutrients that fertilizer does – but without the cost.

- **Less work**

Leaving debris on the lawn saves time and energy. Why toil away outside raking leaves when nature can do its thing?

- **Retains moisture and helps with weed control**

Let the leaves lay – they'll help keep the water in and the weeds away.

- **Free mulch**

Use the debris as mulch instead. Fallen leaves make great mulch for vegetable gardens and around tree beds.

- **No collection means no plastic bags**

If you're not having yard waste picked-up, there is less of a chance you'll be putting the debris in plastic bags. Pervasive plastic bags are not recyclable in Leon County bins. Remember to skip the bag next time!

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## It's Winter Planting Season!

As the breezy, crisp air moves in to sweep away the warmer months, some of us feel much happier – and so do certain plants! Here's what will thrive in your winter garden (best when planted October - December):

Arugula	Kale
Beets	Lettuce
Bok Choy	Mustard Greens
Broccoli	Onions
Carrots	Strawberries
Collards	Turnips
Garlic	



Have a question about gardening in Leon County this winter? Ask a question via email to [Ask-a-MasterGardener@LeonCountyFL.gov](mailto:Ask-a-MasterGardener@LeonCountyFL.gov)



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# EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

## WHAT'S GOING ON THIS SEASON?

### 14 NOVEMBER

#### **Trash Dash 5K and Family Fun Run**

Sustainable Tallahassee and Leon County's Office of Sustainability will be hosting the 5th Annual Trash Dash at Apalachee Regional Park on November 14th. This family-friendly event supports and promotes both organizations' missions of creating a cleaner, greener community. Whether you decide to take on the 5K race or enjoy the 1 mile Family Fun Run/Walk, it's an engaging outdoor morning for all ages. Find out more information at:

[www.SustainableTallahassee.org](http://www.SustainableTallahassee.org)



### 5 DECEMBER

#### **Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Collection Event**

Bring your broken electronics, household cleaners, motor oil, batteries, lightbulbs, paint, and other potentially-hazardous household items to be recycled from 9 am - 1 pm, at the Public Works Operations Center, 2280 Miccosukee Road.

### 18 NOVEMBER

#### **Grow Healthy, Eat Healthy Workshop**

*Leon County Extension Office*

Learn about the Seed Library Program, composting, vegetable gardening and cooking healthy meals with fresh produce.

- **11/18** LeRoy Collins Main Library, 6 pm - 7:30 pm
- **11/19** Woodville Branch Library, 6 pm - 7:30 pm



# The Race to Recycle



## What Can I Recycle?

No need to separate your items, they can all go into the same container!



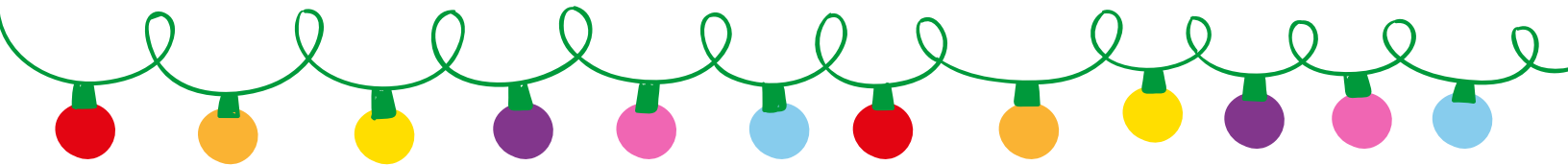
Leon County Office of Resource Stewardship  
(850) 606-1800  
[www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Recycling](http://www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Recycling)

Did you know that Leon County has a recycling goal of 75% by the year 2020? Did you know it's a state-wide goal and Leon is one of the many counties in the state of Florida striving to reach this goal? Although Leon County is currently at 51%, we have a few mountains to climb before we succeed. Much of the missed recycling percentages can be attributed to the pondering of this simple question: What can be recycled, and what can't?

Remember: Leon County has single-stream recycling, which means all of your items can go into the same bin – no need to separate. They all get mixed together and are sorted at the recycling facility for your ease!

The benefits are huge: recycling saves valuable resources and energy, and it keeps materials out of the ever-growing landfill. It's something to feel good about – personally, environmentally and economically.

## COUNTY HIGHLIGHT: What to do With Those Old Holiday Lights



'Tis the season...to rummage through old holiday decoration boxes. If you find a strand of lights that don't work, or old lights of questionable age, don't throw them in the trash. Bring them to the Household Hazardous Waste Center at 7550 Apalachee Parkway to be recycled.

We accept holiday lights for recycling at the Household Hazardous Waste Center year-round, so bring them anytime! You can also bring them to any Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event.

Find out what else you can bring to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events at: [www.LeonCountyFL.gov/HHW](http://www.LeonCountyFL.gov/HHW)

# CONNECT WITH US!

Leon County Office of Resource Stewardship now has a Facebook page! Stay up-to-date on sustainable happenings around the community and learn about free services to help 'green' your daily life at: [www.Facebook.com/LeonCountyORS](http://www.Facebook.com/LeonCountyORS)



Know of or participate in a community experience related to sustainability? We would love to share it! Send us Sustainability Community Highlights and the winner of each week will be posted to our Facebook page.

Simply send an e-mail to [Sustainability@LeonCountyFL.gov](mailto:Sustainability@LeonCountyFL.gov) with relevant information and a synopsis of the event or program.

Wishing you the happiest (and greenest) of holidays!

Warm regards from Leon County's Sustainability Team,



**Robert Mills**  
Director, Office  
of Resource  
Stewardship



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Recycling &  
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